



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE



## Regular Meeting

**Friday, February 27, 2015 – 9:00 am**

*Location: Hall of Administration: Commission Hearing Room  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, California 92701*

## MINUTES

### MEMBERSHIP / ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS

- Ron Blaul
- Patrick Powers
- Nick Anas, MD (excused)
- Jon Gilwee
- Vacant
- Monica Ruzich
- Sharon Hoier, RN
- Kenneth McFarland (excused)
- Michelle Tom, MD
- Jim Karras (nonvoting member)
- Dean Grose
- Margie Harrier, RN
- Vacant
- Chief Wolfgang Knabe
- Bryan Hoynak, MD (excused)
- Vacant
- Vacant

#### CATEGORY REPRESENTED

- Board of Supervisors, First District
- Board of Supervisors, Second District
- Board of Supervisors, Third District
- Board of Supervisors, Fourth District
- Board of Supervisors, Fifth District
- American Red Cross, OC Chapter
- Orange Coast Emergency Nurses Assn.
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Society of OC Emergency Physicians
- Ambulance Association of OC
- League of California Cities
- OC Business Council
- OC City Managers Association
- OC Fire Chiefs Association
- OC Medical Association
- OC Police Chiefs/Sheriffs Assn.
- OC Senior Citizens Advisory Council

#### HEALTH CARE AGENCY STAFF

- Sam Stratton, MD - EMS Medical Director
- Tammi McConnell, RN, MSN - EMS Administrator
- Mike Delaby, RN - EMS Systems & Standards Chief
- Rey Montoya - EMS Performance Chief
- Vicki Sweet, RN - ALS/CQI Coordinator
- Erica Moojen - EMS Office Supervisor
- Eileen Endo - Office Specialist

#### GUESTS PRESENT

- Peter Anderson, MD
- Whitney Ayers
- Chief Kevin Baker
- Walter Garcia
- Tina Heinemann, RN
- Steve Katanich
- Julie Puentes

#### REPRESENTING

- Fountain Valley Regional Hospital
- HASC
- City of Westminster
- Lynch Ambulance Service
- Lynch Ambulance Service
- Schaefer Ambulance Service
- HASC

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Michelle Tom, MD.

### II. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC: Minutes from the December 12, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.**

### IV. OCEMS REPORT / CORRESPONDENCE

**Medical Director Update:** Dr. Stratton reported that Children’s Hospital of Orange County was designated as a pediatric trauma receiving center and began operations in January, 2015. A pilot program is expected to begin shortly with participation from the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and Santa Ana Police Department to introduce nasal administration of naloxone (Narcan) by law enforcement personnel in suspected overdoses. Orange County’s Stroke Neurology Receiving Center System has passed the five-year mark. While reviewing UCI Medical Center and St. Jude Medical Center’s stroke programs, the Joint Commission suggested that data from the Stroke Neurology Receiving Centers be published.

**Program/OC-MEDS Update:** Tammi McConnell provided a status report on the Ambulance RFP process currently underway. It is anticipated that the ambulance contracts will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April with a service start date to be June 1, 2015. Orange County EMS will be releasing several policies, in a similar fashion as last spring, on April 1, 2015. Many will be posted for public comment. Some policies will consist of administrative changes only. She also provided a status report on Orange County's 2015 ambulance licensing, and block grant funds awarded to purchase additional tablets.

**EMCC Correspondence:** Included in today's packet are letters regarding the Psychiatric Emergency Services Initiative which will be introduced at that time. Also, received is a letter received prior to this meeting regarding the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors Meeting held on February 26, 2015.

V. **EMCC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS**

Received reports on the Education and Training Advisory, Facilities Advisory, County Paramedic Advisory Subcommittees. Mike Delaby presented Orange County's Hospital Diversion report for calendar year 2014 as part of the Facilities Advisory Subcommittee report. Committee members asked about system resources available to those facilities with high diversion hours and how Orange County EMS addresses high diversion hours with hospital administration.

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **County of Orange Ambulance Ordinance (Ordinance 3517):** Orange County Emergency Medical Services staff met with a task group formed to revise the ambulance ordinance. The Ambulance Ordinance was to return to the Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2014, however, the Health Care Agency was directed to have the item deleted from the agenda. The Ordinance will be returned to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at a later date.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Appointment of EMCC Slate of Officers for Calendar Year 2015:** A nominating committee had been formed and will be meeting to appoint a slate of officers. This item will return to the agenda at the next meeting.

B. **Psychiatric Emergency Services Initiative**

At the December 12, 2014 meeting, Julie Puentes, Executive Vice President of the Hospital Association of Southern California, presented an initiative to address the ongoing problems that hospital emergency departments face with the holding of psychiatric patients in emergency departments.

Attached to the agenda packet were letters of support from the Orange County Psychiatric Society, the Orange County Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association, and Care Ambulance Service, Inc. In addition, Orange County EMS received a letter requesting information regarding the model.

Speaking on this agenda item were Julie Puentes, Chief Kevin Baker of Westminster Police Department, Dr. Peter Anderson of Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, and Stephen Wontrobski, a resident of the City of Mission Viejo.

*Jon Gilwee: This model is a means to improve the treatment of psychiatric emergency patients in Orange County to ensure quality patient care given to psychiatric patients.*

*Monica Ruzich: Asked about if the model requires facilities to participate. Answer: Hospitals may or may not participate in the model.*

*Jim Karras: Asked if the existing call rotation will continue in the transport of psychiatric patients.*

**MSC: Committee members recommended the support of the Psychiatric Emergency Services model of care and to communicate this support to the Board of Supervisors.**

VIII. **MEMBER COMMENTS**

*Dean Grose: Shared his experience on serving on the Ambulance RFP selection panel in answering Mr. Wontrobski's concerns.*

*Chief Knabe: Participated in an award ceremony in a rescue that occurred at UCI Medical Center. Thanked the hospitals and UCI Medical Center's Burn Center on the quality of patient care provided to patients.*

*Patrick Powers: Recommended that Orange County EMS look at a competitive process for aero-medical transport.*

*Jim Karras: Asked about the process for licensure for aero-medical transport.*

*Dr. Stratton provided information to Committee members on interest expressed by the Orange County Fire Authority to schedule a meeting on providing this type of service and stated a provider that meets the regulations to provide aero-medical transport could become licensed. Presently, Mercy Air Service is the only aero-medical transport service licensed to operate in Orange County.*

IX. **PUBLIC FORUM**

*Julie Puentes: Stressed the importance that the Psychiatric Emergency Services model, have medical screening capability as well as allowing for law enforcement to drop patients. By doing so, this will reduce the number of hours that hospitals are diverted due to the holding of psychiatric patients.*

*Chief Kevin Baker: The Psychiatric Emergency Services model is supported by the Orange County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association. Chief Baker thanked the Hospital Association of Southern California encouraged Committee members to support the model being presented here.*

*Peter Anderson, MD: Dr. Anderson stated that physicians in Orange County are in full support of this concept. This model is used nationwide to better care for psychiatric patients on an outpatient basis.*

*Stephen Wontrobski: Spoke on letter he submitted to Orange County EMS expressing his concerns about the PES model. He also reported on the approval by the Orange County Fire Authority to operate a search and rescue helicopter program 24 hours a day and expressed his concerns regarding the program.*

X. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.